

(hereinafter "Brenner") in view of Wendkos U.S. Patent No. 6,278,980 (hereinafter "Wendkos").

The Examiner's Rejection of Claims 1 and 17

Claims 1-9, 11, 12, 15-25, 27, 28, 31, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brenner in view of Wendkos. The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' independent claims 1 and 17 are directed to an interactive wagering system and method that enable users to access wagering account information from a database with a plurality of types of user interface systems. At least one of the user interface systems is an interactive voice response control system and at least another one of the user interface systems is a computer wagering control system.

Brenner discloses interactive wagering systems and processes. Although the practice of the invention claimed in the present application may implicate the teachings of Brenner, Brenner does not show or suggest the specific improvement of allowing a user to use both an interactive voice response system and a computer wagering control system to access wagering account information from a database. The Examiner admits this on page 3 of the Office Action where it is stated that "Brenner does not disclose the use of a plurality of

types of user interface systems to receive account information."

Wendkos describes an awards promotional incentives system. Wendkos describes two different environments for implementing the awards promotional incentives system. The system can be implemented in a telephone environment or in a computer network environment (see the abstract of Wendkos).

The Examiner contends that Wendkos' system is configured to allow users to access account information using different types of user interfaces. At most, Wendkos discloses that in a telephone environment, a user can access information in an account with telephone equipment. Likewise, in a computer network environment, a user can access information in an account with computer equipment. These environments, however, illustrate specific implementations of Wendkos' awards promotional incentives system. Nowhere in Wendkos is it disclosed or suggested to allow a user to access information from a single account with more than one type of user interface |

The applicants' foregoing characterization of Wendkos is supported at column 6, lines 65 to 4 of Wendkos. In the telephone environment, the personal identification number for accessing the record is preferably a telephone number. In the computer network environment, the personal identification number is a user network address. There is no suggestion that the

personal identification number can include both a network address and a telephone number. Thus, a record used in the telephone environment cannot be accessed in the computer network environment.

Accordingly, the combination of Brenner and Wendkos fails to disclose or suggest providing the user with at least an interactive voice response control system and at least a computer wagering control system for accessing wagering account information from a database as required by claims 1 and 17.

Accordingly, applicants submit that claims 1 and 17, and claims 2-9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18-25, 27, 28, 31, and 32 which depend therefrom, are allowable over Brenner in view of Wendkos.

New Claims 33-58

Claims 33 and 46 are directed toward features that are similar to claims 1 and 17. Claims 33 and 46 describe a computer-readable medium and system for providing an interactive wagering system by storing data relating to wager account information in a database, and receiving wager information from users and providing the wager account information to users with a plurality of types of user interface systems, wherein at least one user interface system is an interactive voice response control system and at least another one of the user interface systems is a computer wagering control system.

As discussed above, Wendkos and Brenner fail to disclose or suggest these features. Claims 33 and 46 are therefore allowable for similar reasons as to why claims 1 and 17 are allowable. Claims 34-45 and 47-58, which depend from claims 33 and 46, are therefore allowable because claims 33 and 46 are allowable.


Dependent claims 2 and 18 introduce television wagering control systems as another one of the plurality of types of user interface systems with which the user can access wagering account information from a database. Dependent claims 2 and 18 are patentable for the additional reason that Brenner or Wendkos do not show or suggest allowing a user to use a television wagering control system in conjunction with an interactive voice response system and a computer wagering control system to access wagering account information from a database.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that claims 1-9, 11, 12, 15-25, 27, 28, 31, and 33-58, are in condition for allowance, and that this application

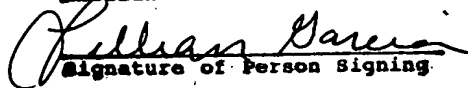
is therefore in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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